



REMOVING MERCURY FROM MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOLS



Background

The *Partnership for Environmental Health & Safety in Schools* is a program of the Massachusetts Office of Technical Assistance and Technology (OTA) that assists public secondary schools in identifying and safely managing hazardous chemicals, with the goal of reducing, replacing or eliminating them from the school environment.

Why Mercury?

Mercury is poisonous and can damage the nervous system, kidneys, liver and immune system. Typical exposures to mercury come from breathing its fumes during an accidental spill or leak, or by eating fish contaminated with mercury. Children are most at risk from mercury's toxic effects and can suffer potentially serious neurological damage.

Devices or chemicals that contain mercury, and jars of elemental mercury, are a liability for schools. Improper handling of mercury and accidents that result in a spill can cause significant health problems, with serious financial and legal consequences.

How OTA can help

Schools participating in the OTA program must complete a hazardous materials assessment, and clean out their stock of chemicals that are old or no longer needed by the schools. Elemental mercury and mercury compounds are among the hazardous materials targeted for removal.

Three firms that operate waste-to-energy plants within the state have volunteered to assist the schools with mercury issues and proper removal. These firms will accept mercury from schools, and replace some types of mercury-bearing devices with those that do not contain mercury.

Here's what to do:

1. Identify the sources of mercury. Attached to this fact sheet is a checklist developed by the Northeast Waste Management Officials Association (NEWMOA) that will help you identify sources of mercury in different locations within your school;
2. If you find any of the devices or compounds that contain mercury, isolate them from students, faculty and staff and;
3. Check the list on the back of this fact sheet to see which of the waste-to-energy firms serves your community. Call the person who is identified to help you dispose of your mercury devices or compounds; if your community is not served by any of the waste-to-energy firms, contact OTA at 617-626-1068.

To Recycle Mercury From Schools

If you live in one of these towns, you are served by the SEMass waste-to-energy plant. Call Sidi Mateo at 508-291-4427.

Acushnet	Eastham	Mashpee	Sharon
Attleboro	Edgartown	Mattapoisett	Stoughton
Barnstable	Fairhaven	Middleborough	Sudbury
Bellingham	Falmouth	Milton	Truro
Berkley	Freetown	Norfolk	W. Bridgewater
Blackstone	Halifax	Norwell	Waltham
Bourne	Hanover	Orleans	Wareham
Braintree	Hanson	Pembroke	Wellfleet
Brewster	Harwich	Plymouth	Weymouth
Canton	Hingham	Plympton	Whitman
Carver	Holbrook	Provincetown	Wrentham
Chatham	Hyannis	Randolph	Yarmouth
Cohasset	Kingston	Rochester	
Dennis	Lakeville	Rockland	
Dighton	Marion	Sandwich	
Duxbury	Martha's Vineyard	Scituate	

If you live in one of these towns, you are served by a Wheelabrator Technologies waste-to-energy plant. Call Patrick Scanlon at 978-475-1776.

Acton	Hamilton	Millville	Southborough
Andover	Holden	Natick	Spencer
Arlington	Holliston	Needham	Tewksbury
Auburn	Hopedale	Newton	Upton
Bedford	Hopkinton	North Andover	Walpole
Belmont	Lexington	Northborough	Watertown
Beverly	Lincoln	Northbridge	Wenham
Billerica	Lowell	North Reading	Westborough
Boxborough	Lynn	Oxford	West Newbury
Burlington	Malden	Paxton	Westford
Carlisle	Manchester	Peabody	Weston
Chelsea	Maynard	Princeton	Westwood
Dover	Medfield	Revere	Wilmington
Dracut	Medway	Rockport	Winchester
E. Brookfield	Mendon	Rutland	Worcester
Everett	Milford	Saugus	
Franklin	Millbury	Sherborn	
Grafton	Millis	Shrewsbury	

If you live in one of these towns, you are served by the Covanta waste-to-energy plant. Call Steve Parker at 978-372-6288.

Ayer	Groton	Lynnfield	Stoneham
Chelmsford	Haverhill	Melrose	Wakefield
Danvers	Lawrence	Middleton	
Essex	Littleton	Reading	

